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Inventory and Value of Old-Growth in the Douglas-Fir Region

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Abstract

Timber inventory data for all owners in western Washington and western Oregon were summarized by age classes to provide an estimate of the remaining amount of old growth timber. The data suggest that roughly 30 percent of the timberlands in the Douglas-fir region contain essentially mature timber (stands whose age is in excess of culmination of mean annual increment). Available information on value of old growth is scanty but does suggest that old-growth Douglas-fir is some 56 percent more valuable than second-growth Douglas-fir.

Keywords: Old-growth stands, stumpage prices, stumpage evaluation, timber supply.

Background

About half of the softwood timber inventory for the United States is on public lands in the West. Much of this timber is in stands commonly called old growth. The term "old growth" lends itself to an array of interpretations, but most definitions in the Pacific Northwest include age. Policies regarding the management and eventual harvest of old-growth timber are controversial because, without an explicit definition, basic management information is lacking. During the early 1980's, there was a concern that anticipated increases in USDA Forest Service harvest would engender controversy. In an attempt to provide background information for this controversy, the Society of American Foresters, in April 1982, chartered a task force to study issues associated with scheduling the harvest of old-growth timber. The task force was to develop a definition of old growth, assess the amount of remaining old growth, and review current old growth timber harvesting policies. This paper presents the background material prepared for that task force on two issues: (1) the question of how much old growth is still left in the Douglas-fir region and (2) whether old growth commands a higher stumpage price than does second growth.

Work on the first issue involved compiling available inventory statistics for the Douglas-fir region in a manner that would facilitate a discussion of old growth. Because all definitions have some age or size criteria, I assembled the available information for each owner group by stand age, area, and cubic volume. I also replicated the presentation of the data for the other public owners because I had two sources of data for these owners.

RICHARD W. HAYNES is research forester, Pacific Northwest Research Station, Forestry Sciences Laboratory, P.O. Box 3890, Portland, Oregon 97208. Work on the second issue involved reviewing available stumpage price data to determine if old growth commanded higher stumpage prices than second growth. Higher values for old growth could reflect higher qualities (for example, less knots or more rings per inch) unique to old growth. These values could then be used as justification for retaining and managing older stands.

Following publication of the task force report (Society of American Foresters 1984), the Society of American Foresters adopted a position calling for an ecological definition of old growth, improved inventories, and harvest scheduling based on balancing economic, social, and environmental values.

Timber Inventory Statistics for the Douglas-Fir Region

Timber inventory volumes in cubic feet were compiled from two sources. The primary source was data collected by the Forest Inventory and Analysis unit, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station, Forestry Sciences Laboratory, Portland, Oregon. These data are described for western Washington by Bassett and Oswald (1981a, 1981b, 1982) and for western Oregon by Jacobs (1978), Bassett (1979), and Mei (1979). These data cover three owner groups: other public, forest industry, and other private (terms are defined in the appendix). The second source of data is the various inventories of public lands conducted by the responsible agencies. For public owners other than the Forest Service and the BLM (Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior), the inventory information collected by the Forest Inventory Analysis unit duplicated the data. The inventories were conducted in the mid-1970's for western Oregon and the late 1970's for western Washington. The National Forest inventories came from Timber Management, Pacific Northwest Region, and represent inventories made, for the most part, in the early 1970's; they are, however, the most recent available.

The spatial detail for the private timberlands and for some public timberlands is limited to multicounty subregions (fig. 1). Forest Service inventory information is available for each National Forest. Age class representations are presented for each owner. Timberland administered by the NPS (National Park Service) is not included in the other public owner group, but the available information is presented in a separate section.

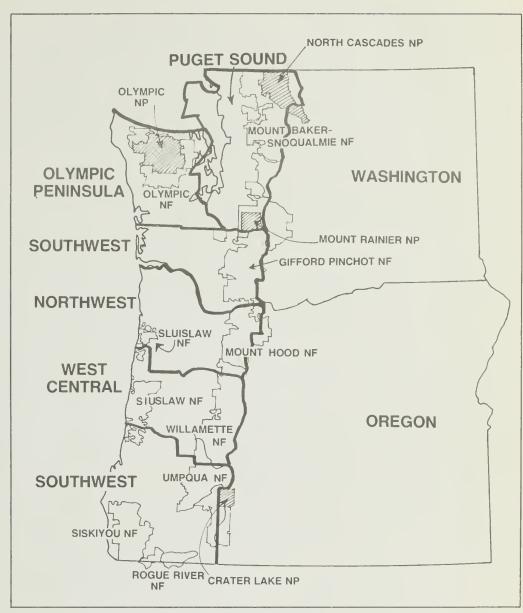


Figure 1.—Inventory units in the Douglas-fir region.

Timberland Area and Cubic Volume by Stand Age and Owner Group Definitions of each subregion and the location of each west-side National Forest are shown in figure 1. Timberland area and softwood inventory volumes by stand age (in 10-year age classes) for each of the west-side National Forests and various subregional owner groups are given in tables 1 through 5. Uneven-aged stands are presented separately and are split between those less than 100 years old and those over 100 years. The data for other public owners in the State of Washington include small amounts of timberland administered by the BLM. The data for Oregon, however, recognizes timberlands administered by the BLM as a separate ownership.

Table 1—Timberland area and volume for National Forests in western Washington, by stand age

		t Baker- ualmie	015	ympic	Gifford Pinchot		
Stand age	Acres	Volume	Acres	Volume	Acres	Volume	
Years	Thousand	Million cubic feet	Thousand	Million cubic feet	Thousand	Million cubic feet	
5 15 25 35 45 55 65 75 85 95 105 115 125 135 145 155 165 175 185	17 25 16 17 42 31 42 23 33 23 30 18 26 4 55 11 4 6 64 4 242	7 5 10 24 108 64 117 100 156 151 193 112 161 33 334 68 48 49 454 27	48 25 22 3 37 1 20 4 9 2 10 2 6	3 5 30 5 94 4 82 18 45 15 66 17 40 152 210	95 27 11 23 40 51 40 25 15 17 27 15 15 17 6 4 13 8 2	22 14 9 49 140 210 196 146 122 111 202 108 142 142 155 58 24 143 94 13 737	
300+ Uneven-aged: Under 100 Over 100 Nonstocked	191 23 162 15	1,934 68 1,143	163 83 21	1,980	154 101 223 63	1,679 455 1,890	

Table 2—Timberland area and volume for National Forests in western Oregon, by stand age

	Mount	Hood	Willam	ette	Siusl	аw	Umpq	ua	Rogue	River	Siski	you
Stand age	Acres	Volume	Acres	Volume	Acres	Volume	Acres	Volume	Acres	Volume	Acres	Volume
		Million		Million		Million		Million		Million		Millio
Years 7	Thousands	cubic feet	Thousands	cubic feet	Thousands	feet	Thousands	feet	Thousands	feet	Thousands	feet
	11	11	4	13	26	0	56	7	45		43	16
5	17	34	7	11	7	0	14	4	2		22	22
15	20	37	4	6	23	61	13	11	8	3	17	22
25 35	18	49	9	24	6	18	7	17	25	3	15	23
45	28	78	18	58	41	189	9	22	22	8	24	56
55	37	166	24	92	23	100	4	15	25	34	28	57
65	37	159	38	228	75	458	18	90	1	1	17	43
75	31	190	44	284	31	212	18	92	22	20	20	81
85	11	59	36	228	73	673	9	59	5	15	7	30
95	18	154	27	218	19	207	5	31	23	32	11	49
105	2	18	34	276	77	886	18	100	13	35	4	15
115	7	65	38	332	6	47	7	50	17	71	2	9
125	2	9	11	95	8	80	9	48	24	67	2	21
135	4	25	11	108			4	34	48	66		
145	4	33	29	289			4	31	30	143	4	23
155	4	30	20	166	3	30	4	19	16	48	2	16
165	5	48	11	82	2	23	4	5	11	49	4	28
175	4	43	5	69	1	6	5	43	13	100	4	1]
185	5	66	13	116	5	44	4	35	5	19	2	7
195			7	63			7	70	63	462	/	42
250	179	1,939	104	1,066	5	52	79	744	19	218	102	661
300+	39	482	234	2,664	5	98	140	1,470	31	226	69	607
Uneven-aged											120	200
Under 100	41	217	107	590	3	5	95	397	F33	2 200	130	390
Over 100	96	777	218	1,790	77	720	304	2,306	577	3,390	190	997
Nonstocked			5		19		38				19	

^{-- =} Less than 1 million cubic feet.

Table 3—Timberland area and volume for other public owners, by inventory unit and stand age

	Puge Soun		Olymp Penin		Southwe Washin		North Oreg		West-ce Oreg		South Oreg	
Stand age	Acres	Vo1 ume	Acres	Volume	Acres	Volume	Acres	Volume	Acres	Volume	Acres	Volume
Years	Thousands	Million cubic feet	Thousands	Million cubic feet	Thousands	Million cubic feet	Thousands	Million cubic feet	Thousando	Million cubic		Million
-				1000	Tilodadida	1666	Thousands	Teet	Thousands	feet	Thousands	feet
5 15 25 35 45 55 65 75 85 95 105 115	81 37 42 103 99 119 27 13 5	7 18 47 240 387 831 94 104 38	80 86 76 184 127 101 44 13	1 97 71 285 554 761 527 94	53 42 69 87 64 5 6 19	10 46 122 229 331 37 43 130	108 97 128 82 50 8	10 71 166 173 209 29 115 174	27 9 28 9 3 18	60 40 97 3 27 102	17 13 12 18 15 25 19 2	1 14 79 18 11 191 5 47
135 145 145 155 165 175 185 195 250 300+ Uneven-aged: Under 100 Over 100 Nonstocked	5 22 60	25 122 435	7 39 48 44 19	84 42 226 482 1	19	103	49 17	87 164	3	36 26 87	1 2 23 4	8 10 70 59

¹Excluding BLM lands in western Oregon.

^{-- =} Less than 1 million cubic feet.

Table 4—Timberland area and volume for forest industry owners, by inventory unit and and age

	Puge Soun		Olyn Penir		Southw Washir		North Oreg		W reg		Southw Orego	
Stand age	Acres	Volume	Acres	Volume	Acres	Volume	Acres	Volume	Acres	Vclume	Acres	Volume
Years 5 15 25 35 45 55 65 75 85 105 115 125 135 145 155	Thousands 203 92 100 133 132 114 13 14 8 17 17	Million cubic feet 37 39 176 323 572 602 78 113 17 33 101 61	Thousands 184 81 144 194 191 130 78 71 9 8	Million cubic feet 31 50 200 588 742 1,040 547 661 117 121 102 100	Thousands 348 184 201 263 118 123 16 9 16 14 9 9 16	Million cubic feet 24 111 266 873 516 705 78 123 198 128 149 56 203 49	Thousands 204 72 155 254 165 39 44 32	Million cubic feet 55 19 260 892 652 180 225 229	Thousands 248 174 172 106 67 32 16 6 20 11	Million cubic feet 105 104 354 337 215 166 165 38 199 163	7 Thousands 279 185 156 69 19 46 24 44 10	Million cubic feet 16 55 172 186 19 275 85 82 64
165 175 185 195 250 300+ Uneven-aged: Under 100 Over 100 Nonstocked	8 28 21 49 36 6	73 242 172 236 210	66 23 21	480 217 	5 24 77 12 45	15 306 411 85 	46	54	31 33 86 18	260 365 148 82	135 94 273 92	1147 668 670 402

^{-- =} Less than 1 million cubic feet.

Table 5—Area and volume for other private owners, by inventory unit and stand age

	Puget Sound		Olympic Peninsula			Southwest Washington		Northwest Oregon		West-central Oregon		Southwest Oregon	
Stand age	Acres	Volume	Acres	Volume	Acres	Volume	Acres	Volume	Acres	Volume	Acres	Volume	
Years	Thousands	Million Cubic feet	Thousands	Million cubic feet	Thousands	Million cubic feet	Thousands	Million cubic feet	Thousands	Million cubic feet	Thousands	Million cubic feet	
5 15 25 35 45 55 65 75 85 95 105 115 125 135 145 155 165	51 42 100 133 173 137 66 42 23 8 16	12 41 100 193 410 410 310 236 144 29 102	104 48 22 76 86 74 39 12 19	36 19 1 126 155 249 172 55 130	75 80 76 68 98 52 34 37	11 63 80 108 390 157 162 83	48 47 122 84 87 54 22 15 6	18 22 158 158 273 164 52 34 68	70 39 134 64 66 44 27 5 11	34 15 189 121 145 141 33 20 69	50 94 114 78 35 31 20 5 12 34 31	25 27 105 108 120 31 31 6 40 40	
195 250 300+ Uneven-aged: Under 100 Over 100 Nonstocked	139 17 54	334 77 5	50 14 37	170 72 20	39 30 61	92 279 15	148 4	340 26	12 105	207 203	7 190 31	93 289 77	

Growth and Mortality Information

Old-growth stands have frequently been called decadent. The implication is that these stands are slowly deteriorating while still containing a large component of salvable as well as nonsalvable trees. The inventory information for ownerships other than Forest Service (this information is not available for Forest Service lands) contains information on growth and mortality by stand age that demonstrates little factual basis for this supposition. Summaries of this information are shown in table 6. In all cases, net growth of older age classes is positive. The growth volumes in table 6 are for gross growth.

Table 6—Growth and mortality for all private ownerships, by State and stand age

	Western	Washington	Weste	ern Oregon
Stand age	Growth	Mortality	Growth	Mortality
Years		Million	<u>cubic</u> <u>feet</u>	,
5 15 25 35 45 55 65 75 85 95 105 115 125 135 145 155 165	8 66 117 206 200 166 56 37 12 5 8 5	2 3 8 10 11 4 3 1 1 1	7 28 120 127 77 28 13 12 7 1 4	2 1 2 3 3 4 1 4 5 1
195 250 300+	 4 1	 1 1	8	4
Uneven-aged: Under 100 Over 100 Nonstocked	66 21 1	5 4 	- 1 53	8 7

^{-- =} Less than 1 million cubic feet.

Other Public Inventory Information

There are several other sources for estimates of old-growth volumes in National Forests and on other public lands. The first is a compilation of Pacific Northwest west-side National Forest lands containing old-growth habitat. This compilation is shown in table 7 and was part of a talk given by the Regional Forester at a conference on old-growth forests (Sirmon 1982). In general this old-growth habitat was timberlands with timber 250 years old or older that have been relatively undisturbed (less than 10-percent entry). The data were taken from inventory statistics collected by Timber Management, Pacific Northwest Region. More complete than this definition of old growth is the one used by the Region that includes stands of 10 acres or more generally containing the following characteristics:

- 1. Mature and overmature trees in the overstory.
- 2. Multilayered canopy and trees of several age classes.
- 3. Standing dead trees and down material are present.
- 4. Evidence of human activities may be present but such activities have not significantly altered the other characteristics and would be subordinate factors in a description of a stand.

Table 7—Acreage of National Forests and of old-growth habitat, by Forest

National Forest	Old-growth habitat ^l	Total forest	Old-growth as a percentage of total
	Thousan	d acres	Percent
Mount Baker- Snoqualmie Olympic Gifford Pinchot Mount Hood Willamette Siuslaw Umpqua Rogue River Siskiyou	643 152 431 259 385 24 207 71	1,716 651 1,331 1,060 1,667 625 988 638 1,093	37.5 23.3 32.4 24.4 23.1 3.8 20.9 11.1 21.0

Stands of at least 10 acres, older than 250 years, with less than 10 percent entry.

Inventory information was provided by the three largest other public agencies ¹/₂ (table 8). The information gives only acres by age class and supplements the material given in table 3 except the figures given there for western Oregon do not include BLM timberlands. An exact reconciliation of the information in tables 3 and 8 should not be attempted. The data for these tables came from different inventories conducted at different times and with different standards. For owners other than the BLM, the information in table 3 should be considered more definitive as the same inventory standards and definitions were applied to the lands managed by each agency.

¹/DNR (Washington Department of Natural Resources), BLM, and The Oregon Department of Forestry.

Table 8—Acreage administered by the BLM, Washington DNR, and Oregon Department of Forestry, by age class

BLM		Washin	gton DNR	Oregon Department of Forestry		
Age class	Acres	Age class	Acres	Age class	Acres	
Years	Thousands	Years	Thousands	Years	Thousands	
Nonstocked 1-5 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110 120 130-150 160-200 210-250 250-300 310+	76 111 171 142 120 94 51 51 73 75 67 66 70 108 132 128 196 109	0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100-150	251 81 69 84 130 164 96 43 32 17 43	1-5 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110 120-150	3 156 130 129 120 75 20 17 31 20 12 3 11	

National Park Service

The National Park Service estimated that there are approximately 660,000 acres of old growth in the national parks in the Douglas-fir region. These are stands in excess of 200 years with a relatively heavy accumulation of downed logs on the forest floor. This figure does not include North Cascades National Park where vegetation mapping is just starting.

Value of Old Growth

The other issue besides the inventory statistics is the supposition that old-growth timber is inherently more valuable than smaller or second-growth timber. The empirical evidence that supports this position has been scanty because reported Forest Service stumpage prices are volume-weighted averages of all species and sizes. The Washington DNR (Department of Natural Resources), however, has compiled their stumpage price data for second- and old-growth timber. This data for western hemlock/white fir (*Tsuga heterophylla* (Raf.) Sarg./Abies concolor (Gord. & Glend.) Lindl. ex Hildebr.) and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Mirb.) Franco.)

 $^{^{2/}}$ Personal letter, June 13, 1983, from Jim Larson, NPS, Seattle, Washington.

Table 9—Stumpage prices for second growth and old-growth western hemlock/white fir and Douglas-fir, by calendar year

	Western heml	ock/white fir	Doug	Douglas-fir		
Calendar year	Second growth	01d growth	Second growth	01d growth		
		\$/MBF, Scri	bner scale			
1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975	\$ 33.68 21.63 14.09 112.39 108.48 83.10 93.00	\$ 48.18 42.99 76.64 213.14 208.22 134.14 169.15	\$ 36.60 45.78 54.13 188.38 163.56 139.72 126.76	\$ 86.06 75.17 110.41 249.17 253.11 199.58 212.32		
1977 1978 1979 1980 1981 1982 1983 1984	104.79 130.39 152.43 282.19 136.53 108.39 77.76 65.64	155.47 189.89 324.28 315.69 208.94 144.52 86.33 76.68	152.24 152.79 261.81 295.63 262.92 160.70 151.22 133.39	224.04 297.23 475.13 482.31 258.78 228.00 134.55 207.64		

¹ Second growth = timber aged 0 to 99 years.

Source: Unpublished data on file at the Washington Department of National Resources, Olympia, Washington.

are shown in table 9. Statistically the differences between second growth and old growth are significant. If or both species groups; that is, old-growth stumpage is more valuable than second-growth stumpage. In 1984 dollars, the average differences were \$98 for western hemlock/white fir and \$125 for Douglas-fir. The trend in the differences between old growth and second growth has been flat, however, during the past two decades; that is, old growth has not become progressively more valuable than second growth.

²⁰¹d growth = timber aged 160 years or older.

³ Significance was tested at the 5-percent level using an unpaired t-test for comparison of means. The price data was first deflated using the wholesale price index (1967=100).

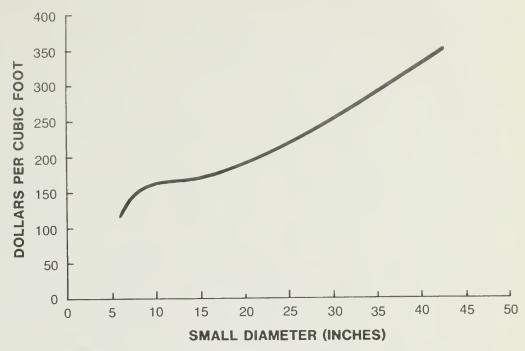


Figure 2.—Value of lumber recovery by log diameter.

Another way to judge value is product recovery. Although it is difficult to judge whether old growth has an inherently higher stumpage value, the relationship between log diameter and cubic recovery is well documented (Snellgrove and others 1985). These relationships expressed on a dollar-per-cubic-foot basis are shown in figures 2 and 3 for lumber and veneer, respectively. The curve for lumber reflects a combination of data from cutting and dimension mills. The curve rises fastest for small diameters as the basic problem of cutting square or rectangular boards from round logs becomes less of a factor, then continues to rise at decreasing rates as higher grade lumber is recovered from larger logs.

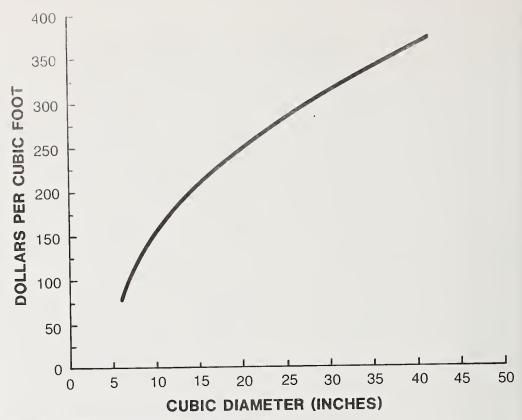


Figure 3.—Value of plywood recovery by log diameter.

Figures 2 and 3 show that the dollar recovery from logs varies directly with log diameter. The inference then is that larger logs having a higher value should have higher stumpage prices. The two figures are not directly comparable though, as different prices were used for each product and production costs were ignored.

Discussion

The available inventory information is at best only suggestive of the volumes and areas of old growth left in the Douglas-fir region. The information available from tables 1-5 and table 8 is summarized as follows:

Age class	Forest Service	NPS	Other public BLM	Other	Forest industry	Other private	Total
			(Million acı	res)		
100+ 160+ 250+	4,861 2,189 1,876	660 660 660	876 565 305	251 54 47	769 379 371	169 19 19	7,586 3,866 3,278

Each line in the tabulation contains all acres that fall into that and all older age classes. The data were summarized for these three age classes because 100+ represents roughly the culmination of mean annual increment in the Douglas-fir region, 160+ is the Washington DNR definition of old growth, and 250+ is the Forest Service definition of old growth.

These estimates suggest that in the Douglas-fir region there are 3.3 million acres meeting the Forest Service age definition and probably another 0.6 million acres that are potential candidates for old-growth status in the next several decades. The data for the 100+ category include 2.3 million acres that are uneven-aged stands over 100 years old. There probably is an indeterminate amount of these stands that also meets either the Washington DNR or Forest Service definition of old growth. Nevertheless, the estimates of total old growth suggest that at the time of the inventories roughly 30 percent of the timberlands in the Douglas-fir region contain essentially mature (in excess of culmination of mean annual increment) timber.

The numbers are deceptive. First there is a necessary caution that age of existing stands (ignoring problems of measurement) is by itself a poor measure of old growth. Another caution is that the inventory data do not address the necessary stand characteristics that are integral parts of any old-growth definition. They do not, for example, include data on stand structure and composition. A third caution is the age of the inventory statistics—particularly those from the Forest Service. Most of these inventories are at least 10 years old and cutting activity during that time has probably taken place disproportionally in older stands.

The value information demonstrates, in part, the scarcity of old growth. In an economic sense, higher prices for old-growth stumpage represent a higher payment for both a relatively scarce resource and the potential for greater product recovery. These higher prices are also consistent with the perception that the volumes of old growth are declining. Lastly, high value provides some justification for retaining and managing older stands.

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Metric Equivalents

1 inch = 2.54 centimeters

1 foot = 0.3048 meter

1 cubic foot = 0.03 cubic meters

1 acre = 2.47 hectares

Appendix 1

Terminology

Age class—A classification of stands for trees based on the midpoint of 10-year intervals.

Diameter class—A classification of trees based on diameter outside the bark measured at breast height, 4-1/2 feet (1.37 m) above the ground. D.b.h. is the common abbreviation for "diameter at breast height."

Dominant trees—Live trees with crowns extending above the general level of the crown canopy and receiving full light from above and partly from the side; larger than the average trees in the stand and with crowns dense, comparatively wide and long, but somewhat crowded on the sides.

Forest industry lands—Lands owned by companies or individuals operating woodusing plants.

Forest land—Land at least 10 percent stocked by live trees or land formerly having such tree cover and not currently developed for nonforest use.

Growing stock trees—All live trees with the exception of cull trees.

Growing stock volume—Net volume in cubic feet of live sawtimber and poletimber growing stock trees from stump to a minimum 4-inch (10-cm) top (of central stem) outside the bark. Net volume equals gross volume less deduction for rot and missing bole sections. Growing stock trees are subdivided into poletimber and sawtimber trees.

Land area—Area reported as land by the Bureau of the Census. Total land area includes dry land and land temporarily or partially covered by water, such as marshes, swamps, and river flood plains; streams, sloughs, and canals less than one-eighth mile (200 m) wide; and lakes, reservoirs, and ponds less than 40 acres (16 ha) in area.

Mean annual increment—A measure of the productivity of forest land in terms of the average increase in cubic-foot volume per acre per year. For a given species and site index the average is based on the number of years needed for the mean annual increment to culminate in fully stocked stands.

Mortality—Volume of sound wood in trees dying from natural causes during a specified period.

National Forest lands—Federal lands that have been designated by Executive order or statute as National Forest or purchase units and other lands under the administration of the Forest Service, including experimental areas and Bankhead-Jones Title III lands.

Net annual growth—The net increase in volume of trees during a specified year. Components of net annual growth of trees: (a) the increment in net volume of trees alive at the beginning of the specified year and surviving to the year's end, plus (b) the net volume of trees reaching sawtimber or poletimber size during the year, minus (c) the net volume of trees that died during the year.

Nonstocked areas—Timberland less than 10 percent stocked with growing stock trees.

Other private lands—All privately owned lands except those classed as forest industry lands.

Other public lands—Lands administered by public agencies other than the Forest Service.

Poletimber stands—Stands with a mean diameter (weighted by basal area) from 5.0 to 9.0 inches (12.5 to 22.5 cm) if softwood and from 5.0 to 11.0 inches (12.5 to 27.5 cm) if hardwood.

Poletimber trees—Live trees of commercial species at least 5.0 inches (12.5 cm) in d.b.h. but smaller than sawtimber size, and of good form and vigor.

Roundwood-Logs, bolts, or other round sections cut from trees.

Salvable dead trees—Standing or down trees of commercial species, at least 9.0 inches (22.5 cm) in d.b.h. for softwoods and at least 11.0 inches (27.5 cm) in d.b.h. for hardwoods, containing 25 percent or more sound wood volume and at least one merchantable 12-foot (3.8-m) log if softwood or one merchantable 8-foot (2.5-m) log if hardwood.

Sapling and seedling stands—Stands with a mean diameter (weighted by basal area) less than 5.0 inches (12.5 cm).

Timber harvest—Volume of roundwood removed from forest land for products.

Timber volume—Includes the net volume in cubic feet of poletimber and sawtimber trees and salvable dead sawtimber trees of all species, the net volume in cubic feet of cull trees of commercial species, and gross volume of noncommercial species. Volume is measured from stump to a minimum 4-inch (10-cm) top outside the bark.

Timberland—Forest land capable of producing 20 cubic feet or more per acre (1.4 m³/ha) per year, and not withdrawn from timber utilization.

Uneven aged—Stands in which less than 70 percent of the growing stock volumes are in three adjoining age classes.

Uneven aged over 100—An unevenaged stand where the main stand is over 100 years of age.

Uneven aged under 100—An unevenaged stand where the main stand is under 100 years of age.

The Forest Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the principle of multiple use management of the Nation's forest resources for sustained yields of wood, water, forage, wildlife, and recreation. Through forestry research, cooperation with the States and private forest owners, and management of the National Forests and National Grasslands, it strives — as directed by Congress — to provide increasingly greater service to a growing Nation.

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